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UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION

DIVISION OF GENETICS
BERKELEY 4, CALIFORNIA

February 22, 1958

Dear Joshua:

I have just finished the budget for 1959-60, which in itself is not such a difficult chore, but it is one that does not go well with interruptions, of which there have been more than usual of late. Now it is possible to do some of the things I should have been doing long since, including ^{an answer to my} your letter of February 6.

Agricultural Biochemistry is apparently not going to fold up entirely on the campus. As far as I can piece out the whole picture at this time it is something of this order: (1) Barker and Hassid will transfer to Biochemistry (Snell's Department) but will retain their 11-month's appointment via the Agricultural Experiment Station with Agricultural Biochemistry as the device. Snell himself may also obtain an 11-month's appointment in the same way. Furthermore, the latest thinking is that Esther would be more appropriately located here (2) Stumpf, et al will go to Davis when Soils and Plant Nutrition building is completed.

Since Barker and Hassid will not move out of the Virus Laboratory-Biochemistry building, they will still be pressed for space. The pressure will not be relieved until a new building is constructed for them. Three to five years is the time estimate and both are to be located on Hearst near Oxford where the present greenhouses are. We are due to move our structures to the Oxford Tract where we will have more modern greenhouse and field laboratory facilities but of course very much less field space. The present virus laboratory will be turned over to Chemistry. Calvin's group will occupy a good share of it. The game of musical chairs goes on. Biochemistry-Virus (Virus will probably become an academic department) will get a new building faster if the Public Health people come through with a grant.

Departments of Genetics are precarious things particularly in the absence of practical applications in plant and animal breeding. In order to preserve the integrity of the science, we feel that it is essential to have a solid core of theoretical genetics. Solidity of the core depends upon a well-rounded covering of the various areas, a condition that we do not have at present and one that we hope that you will remedy. However, locus is also a very important element in establishing and maintaining the core. The fact that Stern, a theoretical geneticist, is in the Department of Zoology weakens the core in spite of all good will and considerable effort on his part.

One reason the forestry building appealed so much to us was that the whole department would be on a single floor. Naturally, we hope to cooperate with related departments and we feel that the cooperation will be much more fruitful and pleasant if we can operate from a solid base.

Lederberg -2
Feb. 22, 1958

In view of the experience of those in the Virus-Bacteriology set up in the past, there is no question that a laboratory of your own is a prerequisite to happy relations with colleagues elsewhere on the campus. I believe that we can work out a satisfactory laboratory although it will take time and considerable patience. At this stage time and effort spent in clearing up fundamentals are well worth it. Do not feel that you are adding to my burdens -- chairmen are expendable. More important, however, I believe that we should explore every possibility so that the ultimate solution is mutually satisfactory.

I have not heard from Browne recently; yesterday I could not reach him by phone. I shall let you know as soon as he has something worth discussing.

Regards to Esther,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jim", is written below the typed text.